



**Death's Job is Eliminated, by Jesus!
His Resurrection Changes EVERYTHING!
John 20:1-29**

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Jesus was placed into a tomb, near the crucifixion site, in the late afternoon on Thursday, just prior to sunset. The Passover began at sunset and since Passover was on a Friday, the very next day was also Sabbath, the one that falls at end of every week. So, for two full days, Jesus was in the Tomb and now, at sunset on Saturday, begins the first day of the week, Sunday.



For those who had been followers of Jesus, everything had gone ghastly wrong. He was now dead and what they had hoped for, a Messiah who would free them from the tyranny of Rome, was now simply a lost hope.

The disciples had been in mourning since the arrest late in the day on Wednesday. They were now in hiding, in fear of their safety and lives since it was more than clear the Sanhedrin also wanted them gone as well. But Sunday was coming, and a lot can change in just three days.

Because of two back-to-back Sabbaths, any work or gathering of materials for burial could not happen unless there had been prior preparation. We saw that Nicodemus had prepared. But those women who were disciples and who wanted to follow Jewish custom, either couldn't or didn't out of fear of the two men.

But for the disciples, it has now been a miserable Passover and a miserable weekend. Jesus had been very up front with them a few weeks ago.

Mark 9:31–32

“for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.” (ESV)

If you happen to be following the Jewish calendar, Jesus was crucified just prior to the beginning of Passover. Well actually the end of the seven days of Passover (Pesach) with the final day (Leviticus 23:5) being the day beginning at sunset. The day after Passover, which in this case would be a Sabbath all on its own, is also the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6).

The next day is First Fruits. The meaning of this holy day is understood in its name. Sfirat HaOmer literally means “the Counting of the Sheaf.”

“It speaks of the earliest harvest that takes place in Israel, the barley harvest. Like the fall holy day, Sukkot (Booths, the Camping Festival), this festival emphasizes the agrarian culture of the ancient Middle East. In practical terms, Sfirat HaOmer was the first harvest of the spring and, as such, was the perfect time to make the grain offering to the Lord. As Leviticus states, this first of the barley harvest was to be brought as an offering to the priest in the Tabernacle/Temple.

The lesson is clear: if God has been faithful to bless us with this early harvest, he will most certainly provide the harvest of later summer.” (Kasdan 2007, 40)

Jesus, in fulfillment of Passover, was our Passover lamb. The lamb of God. He was presented at the same time and day families would be selecting their Passover lamb. He was examined for the same length of time as families would examine their lamb.

He was then crucified, sacrificed at the right time and on the right day taking our place. Just as the lamb being sacrificed in Egypt meant the first-born son would be saved by the blood applied to the door of the home, by His death on the cross, and His blood applied for each of us as we come to Him, we too can be saved.

Oh, and one more thing, when He walks out of the grave early Sunday morning, He is also fulfilling First Fruits, complete with a wave offering of the first of the harvest.



Matthew 27:52–53

“The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.” (ESV)

As we clearly saw in our study of the crucifixion, Jesus was fully in control the entire time, fully aware and needed no coercion to do what He did for us on the cross.

Jesus was not a helpless child; he was a willing Savior. This sacrifice was not contrary to love; it was the ultimate expression of it. Through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, the just wrath of God has been removed, and forgiveness can be offered and fellowship restored between Creator and creature. (Carter and Wredberg 2017, 237)

He is the only hope for us. We cannot earn our way to heaven, none of us can. But His love held Him there on the cross.

Romans 5:6–10

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.” (ESV)

Jesus has been in the tomb since late Thursday afternoon. It is now early Sunday morning, way before sunrise. But it is no longer a Sabbath and travel can take place again.

Jesus was taken down from the cross around 3pm. “From 3:00 until 6:00 is just three hours, but it is considered a whole day!” (Kuehl 2013, 220)

Jesus told us in Matthew 12:40 He would be dead three days and nights. So, lets count. I will use non-Jewish days.

- Thursday afternoon – Day 1 (Partial but counted)
- Thursday night – Night 1
- Friday day – Day 2
- Friday night – Night 2
- Saturday day – Day 3
- Saturday night – Night 3 (Partial but counted)

So, who is the first disciple to go to the Tomb? He did say He was only to be gone a few days (John 16:16). You would expect His disciples would act on that word, but no one remembers that.

For the most part, they are all on their pity pots saying woe is me and so forth.

So, who is the one that does something? That person will wind up being the first person to carry the good news to others. It is a surprise too as she will become the first evangelist, the first to carry the gospel, the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Mary Magdalene. Totally and completely a plot twist.

By the way, public mourning of an executed criminal, per Roman law, was illegal. So, showing up before sunrise might be a way to do so without drawing attention.



John 20:1–2

“Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already removed from the tomb. So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have put Him.”” (NASB 2020)

Zero dark thirty and Mary is already up and moving. Here in John, we are not told the reason why she has gone to the tomb. But the sun is not up yet. There is no reference to any guards at the Tomb either.

She was an eyewitness to the crucifixion. John lists her as being there at the cross with him. For Jews, it was customary to mourn or sit shiva (Hebrew for seven) for seven days. This is still done today. If she is mourning, she may also be wearing a torn garment if she and the others were following the ritual of kria or tearing. Normally on the left side by the heart. But Roman law, so maybe not. Mary though, seeing the stone rolled to the side, and that would take several people to do, assumes someone has removed the body.

It's still dark and she is unable to see inside clearly, but she was not expecting to see the stone moved so she assumes the worst has happened. She is not considering resurrection.

We see that from what she tells Peter and John, obviously up, at least they are now. “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have put Him.”” (John 20:2b, NASB 2020)

This is our first hint that there may be others involved, but we only know about Mary for now. Enter Peter, man of action.

John 20:3–10

“So Peter and the other disciple left, and they were going to the tomb. The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead, faster than Peter, and came to the tomb first; and he stooped to look in, and saw the linen wrappings lying there; however he did not go in. So Simon Peter also came, following him, and he entered the tomb; and he looked at the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings but folded up in a place by itself. So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb also entered then, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes.” (NASB 2020)

Yes, John can indeed run faster than Peter. They were first running together, but John decided to run ahead, in other words, he won the race. Competitive aren't we.

Both have seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus was still hopping around in his grave clothes after being raised. What they see now, is very different. Jesus will never need the grave clothes again, so He has left them.

Both John and Peter see the scene, and John believes. He does not understand it, but he believes Jesus has risen from the dead.

About the grave clothes – possibly the shroud of Turin. About that.

The blood tested human AB with components of hemoglobin, serum and bilirubin. Bilirubin only occurs with jaundice or severe trauma, as would be expected from scourging. Blood stains over the forehead and hair were consistent with wounds from a crown of thorns. Over 100 whip marks on the back alone match scourging inflicted by a Roman whip (flagrum). Blood flow down both arms and at the feet indicate piercing as from nails. Blood flow down the forearms matches gravitational flow patterns made in



crucifixion. The absence of thumb images on both hands indicate the wrist was pierced, not the hands. A nail through the wrist would pierce the median nerve, causing the thumb to snap into the palm of the hand. (Long 2000, 22)

Recent botanical studies have discovered pollen grains consistent with Jerusalem in the spring on the shroud.

The concurrent March-April blooming times of eight plants identified on the Shroud corresponds to the Biblical account of Christ's death. One of these flowers (*Capparis aegyptia*) begins to open at mid-day and is at full bloom shortly before sunset. The three or four o'clock opening of their buds matches the time of Christ's death. (Long 2000, 22)

Is it the grave clothes left behind and seen by Peter and John. Possibly yes.

John believes and Peter, we have no idea at this point what is going on in his head. But both go home. They still do not understand everything Jesus told them. So, they leave Mary there at the tomb.

And no, they did not all go to the wrong tomb. This was a private tomb. There were no other tombs to confuse it with. Also, this was not mass hallucination. "Groups of people don't simultaneously see the same hallucination (1 Corinthians 15:6)." (Moore 2011, 658)

John 20:11–13

"But Mary was standing outside the tomb, weeping; so as she wept, she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they put Him." (NASB 2020)

This is an amazing verse. The two angels, how and where they were sitting, blows my mind. Let me show you why.

In the book of Exodus, Moses receives more than the big ten, he also receives architectural renderings and instructions on how to build the Tabernacle as well as everything that goes into it. Essentially, it was to be a traveling replica of the dwelling in heaven that God is in. There are instructions to build a box, something we call the Holy of Holies. It is to be the place where God meets man and since the cover is also called the atoning cover, it is also to be the place where the blood would be applied after sacrifice, every day of atonement. We call it Yom Kippur.

Exodus 25:18–21

"Then make two cherubim from hammered gold, and place them on the two ends of the atonement cover. Mold the cherubim on each end of the atonement cover, making it all of one piece of gold. The cherubim will face each other and look down on the atonement cover. With their wings spread above it, they will protect it. Place inside the Ark the stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, which I will give to you. Then put the atonement cover on top of the Ark." (NLT)

Literally, there would be the statues of two angels facing each other on the Ark and in the center and that is where the blood would be applied for the atonement of the people.

Mary sees "...two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying." (John 20:12b, NASB 2020)

Mary sees two angels, facing each other seated on the stone that Jesus' body had been laid. The blood from His body still there. Only, this time atonement has been made once and for all by Jesus on the cross.



Hebrews 7:26–28

“For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.” (ESV)

Jesus is God, He is the redeemer, He has paid the price, and the blood has indeed been applied. Mary is still struggling.

John and Peter run to the tomb, Mary follows and as they leave, she arrives and is left standing outside the tomb. She looks inside to see the physical fulfillment of the type Moses created with the Ark of the Covenant.

Two angels, and they ask her why she is weeping. At this point, she is still not thinking resurrection, she is trying to figure out why the Sanhedrin or the Romans would do this.

Have you ever noticed that Jesus meets us many times when we are having the worst day of our life and feeling pretty bummed about it? Just like Mary.

What makes Mary turn around? The angels saw Jesus, standing behind her. Non-verbally, they may be signaling her to turn around.

John 20:14–18

“When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and yet she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Thinking that He was the gardener, she said to Him, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you put Him, and I will take Him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means, Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene came and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and that He had said these things to her.” (NASB 2020)

Mary had spent time with Jesus and the disciples on the road. She knew what He looked like, but here, she clearly does not recognize Him at first. She is part of a very small group that ministered with Him, saw Him crucified and die, and now something she did not expect. She is seeing Jesus now in His resurrected body and does not recognize Him.

Why? Simple, she is not expecting a resurrection. But she just talked to two angels, she saw two men sitting, wearing white, where Jesus had been. She has turned around and mistakes Jesus for the gardener in charge of maintaining the garden the tomb is in.

Let's process what she asks. She asks the living and resurrected Jesus for the body of Jesus. I am sure that made Jesus smile.

Why didn't she recognize Him? It is possible He resurrected without a beard; we simply do not know. Since His resurrected body has the nail scars and the scar of the spear pierce, perhaps he also reflects the torn-out beard.

Mary has been grieving and mourning ever since the crucifixion, which she witnessed. For three days and nights she has mourned, cried, been in deep anguish and probably has not slept at all since Thursday. She simply does not recognize Him. She thinks He is the gardener and has already turned away.



We could guess all day. She didn't recognize Him, but when He called her by name, that changed everything.

John 10:27

"My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;" (NASB 2020)

Jesus simply called her name, and she knew who He was instantly. Jesus wants that kind of relationship with all of us. He wants us to so know Him and be so comfortable being with Him, that when He calls our name, we know. Coming very soon, He will indeed call our name and also say, "come up here."

First, He called Lazarus' name, and then told Him to jump out of the tomb.

Do we spend enough time with Jesus, that we know His voice? Do we spend enough time in His word so that when the Holy Spirit guides us into a new ministry, we follow. Do we spend enough time with Jesus, so that when someone teaches something other than the word, do we walk away because it isn't His voice?

As soon as He calls her name, she knows He is the risen Lord, and she is the very first to see Him. Talk about glorious.

This makes her the first evangelist and her job is to tell the apostles. Wow. Her first reaction is normal, she calls Him Teacher and moves to cling and hold onto Him to make sure He is real and to never ever let Him go. We are the same when we come to Jesus. But He still is saying I'm not leaving you, but I need you to do this for me, you tell others.

Mary will never be the same, ever again. Her Savior is alive. Alive! Imagine that, after all He went through, He is alive and has defeated death once and for all time for all of us.

Mary is told to stop, because her enthusiastic and relieved grasping of Jesus does not really comprehend what is transpiring. She now believes him to be alive, but has understood neither that he is not about to disappear, nor that he soon will. Jesus has a job for her. She is to become the first evangelist and an apostle to the apostles. (Carson 1991, 644-645)

Mary is an apostle who not only saw the risen Lord first, but also announced the message of Jesus' empty tomb to two disciples (20:1-2) and then the message that Jesus is risen to the eleven disciples. Thus, she is "the apostle to the apostles." (Kanagaraj 2013, 198)

She is a changed woman. She gets the mission. There is no question to her obedience, she goes and does what is asked of her. She has encountered the living Lord and He has given Her a task, tell others. Tell them the relationship has now changed.

John 20:19-23

"Now when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were together due to fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, "Peace be to you." And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you; just as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."" (NASB 2020)

Early this morning, Mary came in and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord. She also communicated the message she was commissioned by the Lord to deliver. We know John believed, Peter



is an unknown right now, and with her testimony and obvious excitement, there must be a buzz among the followers, but they are still in hiding and behind closed doors. They are in fear for their lives from the leadership of the Temple.

But a locked door is not a barrier to the resurrected Christ.

It appears that they were not expecting Him. He just suddenly appears. Now, if you have never seen Star Trek and someone just beams right on into the living room where you are hiding out, what is your reaction going to be. Freaked out. Yep.

Even resurrected, Jesus' sense of humor come out. Bang, there He is and He says, chill. Well at least He does so in term they would understand. "Peace be to you." Jesus then shows them He is who He is and once the fear goes, they "rejoiced when they saw the Lord."

That is the most understated verse in the entire Bible.

Take the world of Mary Magdalene, add in testosterone and ready to conquer Rome and then your leader is arrested in front of you, tried, executed and is gone, dead. And there is a manhunt for you. Everything you believed for three years is in tatters and you find yourself considering moving very far away. Then bang, Jesus is alive and in the room with you. You know that for sure because He stills smells like myrrh, yep, same guy. But now He isn't dead, He is alive. He is God in the flesh.

He commissions them and then breathes on them giving them the Holy Spirit, He is in them, but not with power yet. That is still coming. Thomas though missed out.

So, for a week, all the disciples are telling Thomas, we saw the Lord. But he is simply not buying any of it. He has moved on.

But when Jesus showed up and blew their minds, He also commissioned them to continue His work. Jesus knows this. Thomas is part of the plan, there is no plan B so Jesus shows up again, this time for one specific guy.

Jesus does that today too. If you have been running from Jesus and telling everyone around you, you simply aren't buying it, look out. Because today is your day.

Thomas looks like some of us before we come to Christ. We know about Him, but we refuse to believe. But we hang out with Christians, so we pretend to believe when we really are putting on a face. There is no fruit there and those who are saved, like the rest of the disciples now, the Holy Spirit is the evidence of that, they have made Thomas their project. Now the door is locked again. Fear. Maybe. Keeping Thomas from leaving, most likely.

John 20:24–29

"But Thomas, one of the twelve, who was called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." Eight days later His disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Place your finger here, and see My hands; and take your hand and put it into My side; and do not continue in disbelief, but be a believer." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you now believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." (NASB 2020)



So, 8 days went by. It is Sunday, again, and they are still hiding out. Now Thomas is with them. And bang, just like before, Jesus shows up. Of course, the disciples are a bit better prepared this time, but Jesus still tells them to chill. This time He is there for Thomas.

Yes, Jesus did indeed know what Thomas had said because He gives Thomas an invitation tied to his negative comments. Thomas knows he has been had and he believes.

He confesses Jesus as Lord and God and Jesus does not reject what Thomas says. Thomas believes.

John 20:29

“Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you now believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”” (NASB 2020)

That last bit is about us today.

Like I said, if you do not know Jesus, or you’ve been like Thomas and finding reasons not to believe, today is the day it can all change for you.

Jesus rose from the dead, if you are a believer, you will too. The moment we say yes to Jesus, our life changes, the Holy Spirit moves in, and nothing is ever the same again. We are now family with Jesus and God is our Father too.

The resurrected Jesus Christ is still busy invading the lives of those who believe. He is also still blowing minds and doing miracles on our behalf. Why not you too?

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

ABC’s of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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